



# Acton Dog Park Committee

Acton's Dog Park Committee (ADPC) hopes to establish an enclosed, accessible dog park for the benefit of dogs, dog owners, and the public at large.

The ADPC has compared the characteristics of 12 sites proposed for potential use by Acton's Land Use Department with those characteristics cited in the research as desirable for a well-designed dog park.

## Desirable Site Characteristics

- Minimum 2 useable acres, + space for parking a minimum of 10 – 20 cars
- Generally flat terrain; some variation welcome
- Established ground cover to sustain repeated use
- Access to potable water (for dogs, humans)
- Access to swimming water (for dogs)
- Natural shade elements or potential to add them
- Reasonable buffer from residential development
- Good pedestrian and vehicular access
- Permeable soil with the ability to manage runoff
- Access to established trail systems
- Proximity to compatible public use facilities

## We hope to avoid:

- Areas where wildlife or plant systems are protected, dependent, or fragile
- The need for substantial site clearing (costs)
- Conflicts with existing or planned facilities or users

We are currently considering six potential sites.

We are asking for your input and insights as we narrow down our selection of a preferred site to submit for town approval. Thank you for your time!

- Site Option 1: 70 Quarry Road - GIS C5-3.....pages 3, 4
- Site Option 2: Ice House Pond - GIS 116 Concord Road F4-34.....pages 5, 6
- Site Option 3: 24 Arlington Street & 24 Arlington Street Rear (GIS D3-33 and E3-8).....pages 7, 8
- Site Option 4: 34 School St Great Hill GIS H3-A-1-1.....pages 9, 10
- Site Option 5: 348, 352 & 362 Main Street, GIS F3-61, F3-54, F3-32.....pages 11, 12
- Site Option 6: 145 Great Road Rear, GIS F4-37-5.....pages 13, 14

## Site Option 1: 70 Quarry Road - GIS C5-3



## **Pros**

- Close proximity to NARA, would extend use of an existing recreation area
- Generally flat terrain; less clearing required than some sites
- Existing town water access
- Parking available at NARA except during large events; a smaller parking area dedicated to the dog park could suffice
- Few abutters (Yin Peet)
- Existing (Town Forest) trails nearby

## **Cons**

- Some question of impact on town forest and existing trails
- Far north end of town location might diminish potential use
- No swimming water for dogs
- Question of waste runoff into NARA pond?
- Single road would lead in/out of area
- No sidewalks



## Site Option 2: Ice House Pond - GIS 116 Concord Road F4-34



## Pros

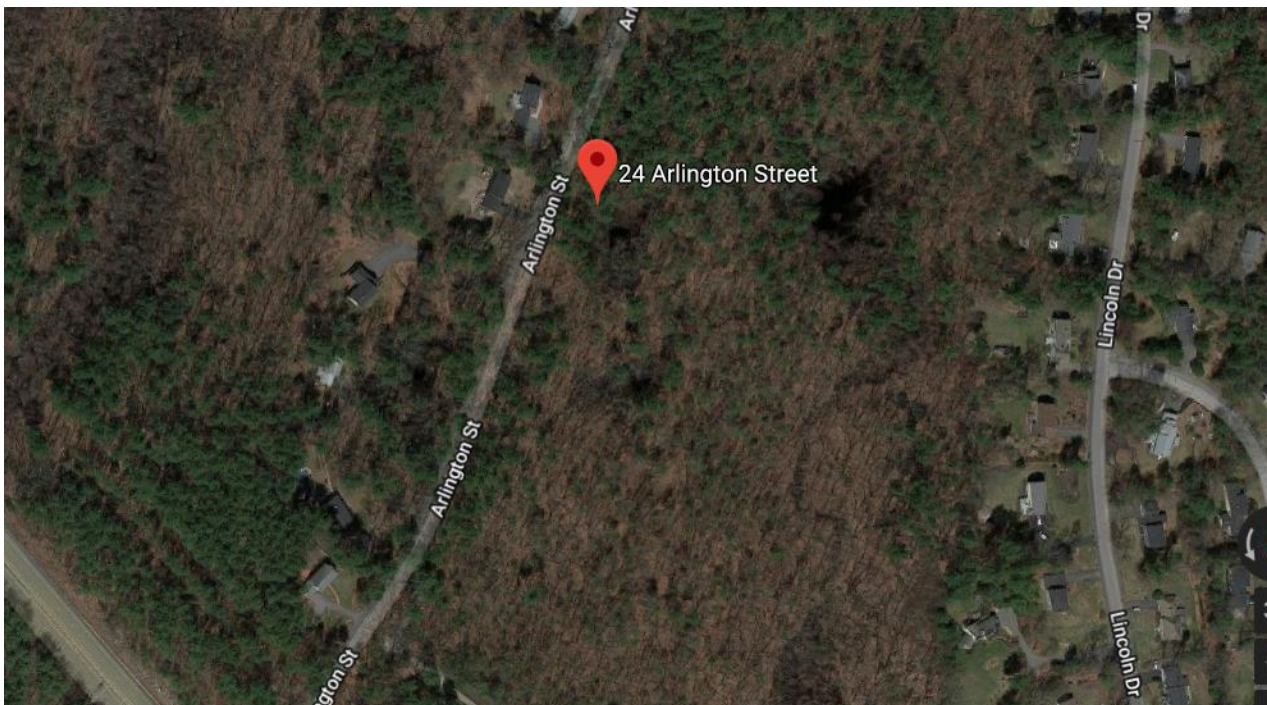
- Centrally located
- Estimated 2 – 3 acres of usable land?
- Existing (newly developed) parking; overflow at Morrison Farm and soccer fields
- Abuts existing trails already used by dogs; planned trail development along Ice House pond
- Isolated from residential
- Access to swimming water for dogs
- Potential access to new Morrison Farm well for human consumption
- Targeted area is hidden from Morrison Farm view by vegetation
- Established turf
- No clearing needed
- Easy access from Rt 2A, Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT), and Concord Road sidewalks

## Cons

- Wetness? Will it be useable year-round?
- Parking may compete with BFRT
- Users/dogs would need to walk trail to get to site
- Community desire to retain natural state of Morrison and surrounding properties?



### Site Option 3: 24 Arlington Street & 24 Arlington Street Rear (GIS D3-33 and E3-8)



## Pros

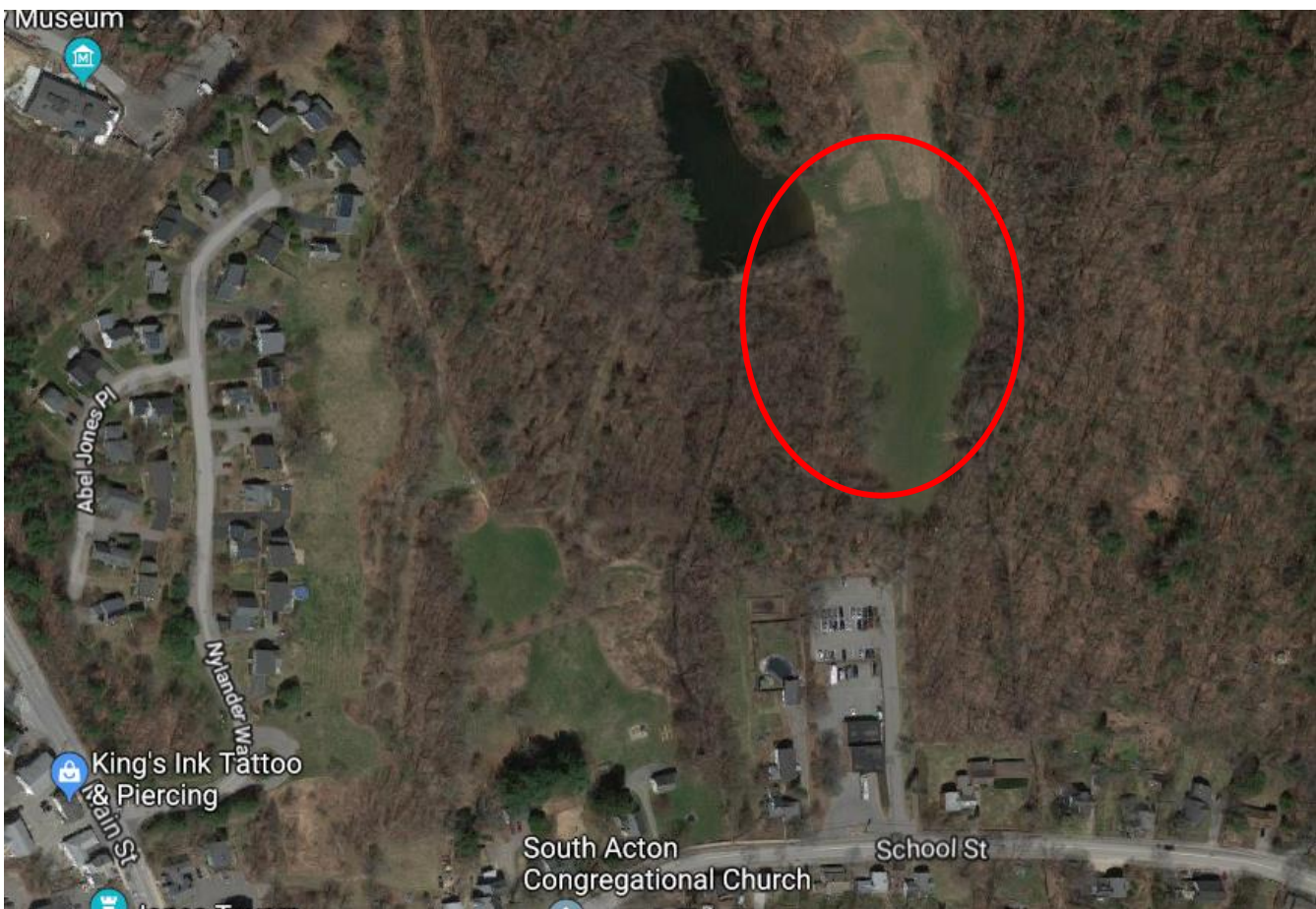
- Wooded property with existing trails, boulders, easy rolling terrain, shade
- Large size (25 acres) allows for buffer from residential
- Flatter than many properties considered
- Easy access to town water
- Natural area for parking between road and stone wall
- Somewhat central
- Few neighbors
- Nearby conservation land
- Good-sized, public road. Access from multiple directions.

## Cons

- No water for dog play
- No sidewalks
- Wooded site would require clearing, ground cover development, parking development
- No existing trails. Nearby conservation land requires road crossing
- Potential for resistance from Lincoln Drive residents?



## Site Option 4: 34 School St Great Hill GIS H3-A-1-1



## Pros

- Acton's "unofficial" dog park
- Existing pond and small beach for dog swimming
- Adjacent conservation land and trails
- Reasonable buffer from residential neighbors
- Existing turf; no clearing needed
- Sidewalks on School Street and leading up to park
- Large size
- Good-sized, public road. Access from multiple directions.
- Access to town water

## Cons

- limited parking -- in use by commuters
- field used for soccer
- some lower areas are wet
- potential conflict with existing users who wish it to remain untouched
- potential resistance from Nylander Way neighbors
- Far south end area of town may limit use



**Site Option 5: “The Walker Property”: 348, 352 & 362 Main Street, GIS F3-61, F3-54, F3-32**



## Pros

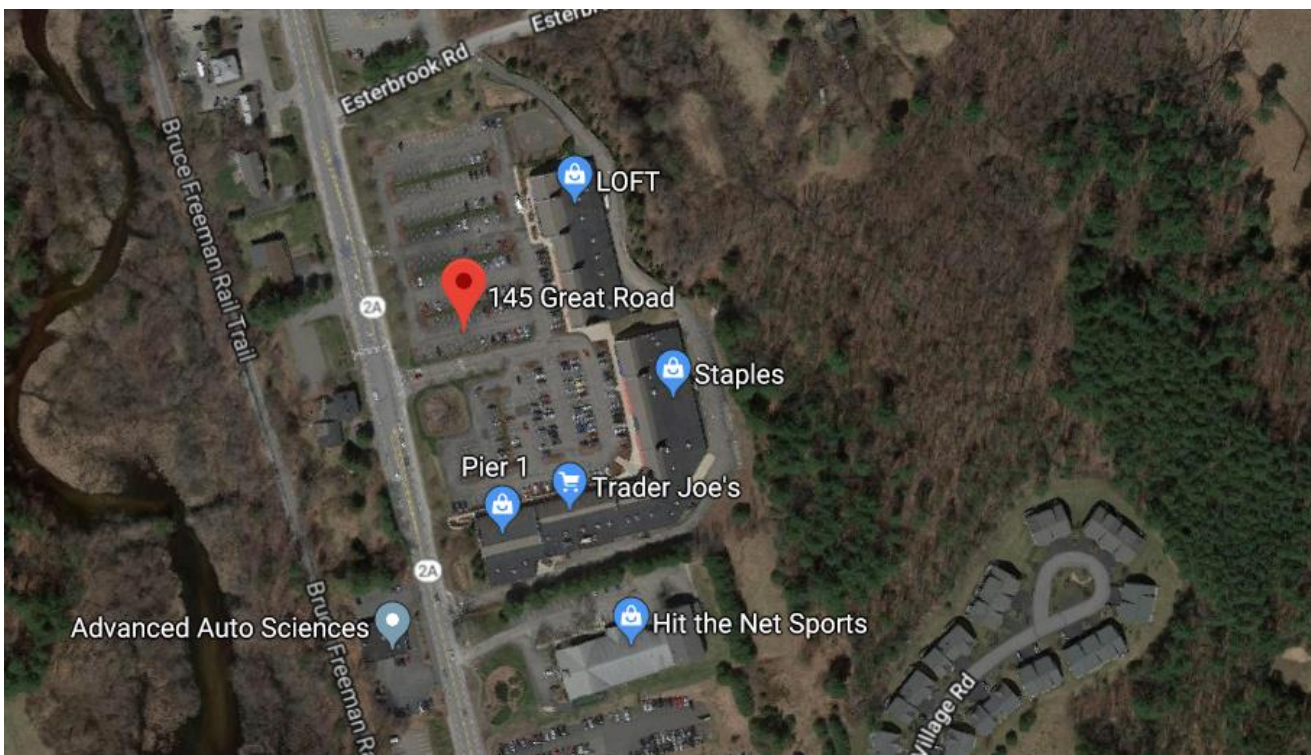
- Centrally located
- Access from multiple directions on good-sized, public roads, Rt. 2, and sidewalks
- Existing parking for over 20 cars
- Minimal number of residential neighbors; tree buffer from residential
- No clearing needed
- Potential increased use of local businesses by park users
- Sufficient size (~ 5 acres)
- Access to town water
- Close proximity to Public Safety Building
- Existing structures offer potential for restrooms and equipment storage
- Potential to beautify a current eyesore property; create a central gathering place.
- Town is actively seeking an appropriate use for the property.

## Cons

- Considerations for how to use existing buildings
- Some demolition may be necessary
- Limited natural shade



## Site Option 6: Behind Trader Joe's Plaza: 145 Great Road Rear, GIS F4-37-5



## Pros

- Somewhat centrally located
- Access from multiple directions on good-sized, public roads
- Some existing parking behind the plaza
- Minimal number of residential neighbors; tree buffer from residential
- Wooded property with existing trails, boulders, easy rolling terrain, shade
- Potential increased use of local businesses by park users
- Large size
- No known competition for land use
- Nearby to Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

## Cons

- Out of site may reduce potential use
- Substantial clearing would be required
- Parking would need expansion
- Vehicular access unclear
- Some question of water access rights (Concord water supply)